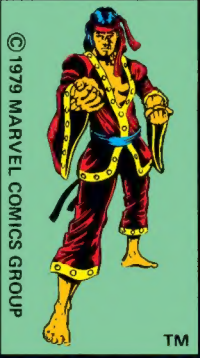


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THE HANDS OF SHANG-CHI, MASTER OF KUNG FU®

TEMPLE
OF BLOOD!



ZECK/DAY

"Call me Shang-Chi, as my *father* did, when he raised me in the vacuum of his Honan, China retreat. Since then, I have learned that my father is Dr. Fu Manchu, the most insidiously evil man on earth...and that to *honor* him would bring nothing but *dishonor* to the spirit of my name.

Stan Lee PRESENTS: **MASTER OF KUNG FU!**®

Featuring supporting characters created by SAX ROHMER

WARRIORS OF THE GOLDEN DAWN

PART
3



THE
RAM

AND THE
DOVE



"THE SOUTH AMERICAN NIGHT GROWS DARKER, AND THE RIVER TURNS CHILL, BOTH OFFERING DANGER FROM ALL SIDES FOR MYSELF AND BLACK JACK TARR..."

WELL, THIS IS ANOTHER FINE MESS, CHINAMAN.

SEEMS WE GOT A REAL KNACK FOR 'EM.

TURN BACK... AND SWIM TO THE OPPOSITE SIDE... IF YOU CAN.

LF650

DOUG
MOENCH
WRITER

MIKE
ZECK
PENCILER

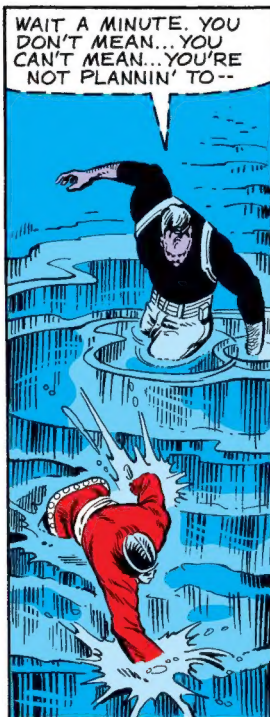
GENE
DAY
INKER

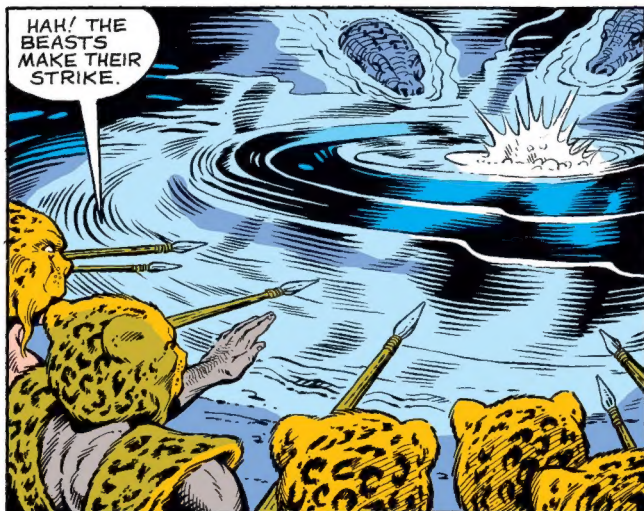
DIANA
ALBERS
LETTERER

STEVE
OLIFF
COLORIST

ROGER
STERN
EDITOR

JIM
SHOOTER
ED.-IN-CHIEF



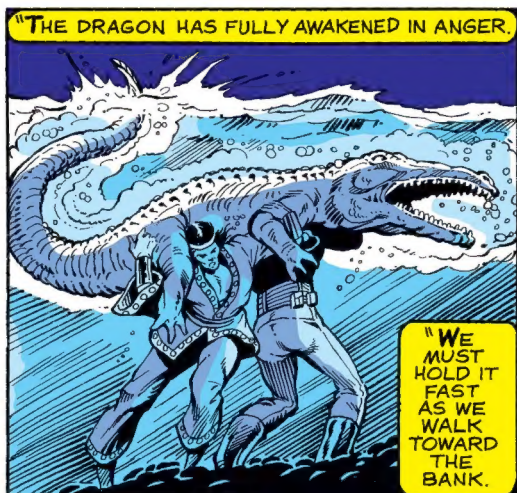


HAH! THE BEASTS MAKE THEIR STRIKE.



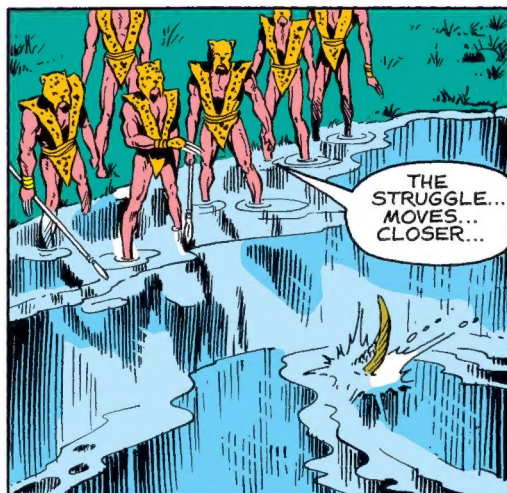
THE THRASHING IS SWIFT --AND ANGRY.

SOON THE TWO WILL BE NO MORE--AND WE SHALL MAKE TROPHIES OF THEIR BONES.



"THE DRAGON HAS FULLY AWAKENED IN ANGER.

"WE MUST HOLD IT FAST AS WE WALK TOWARD THE BANK.



THE STRUGGLE... MOVES... CLOSER...



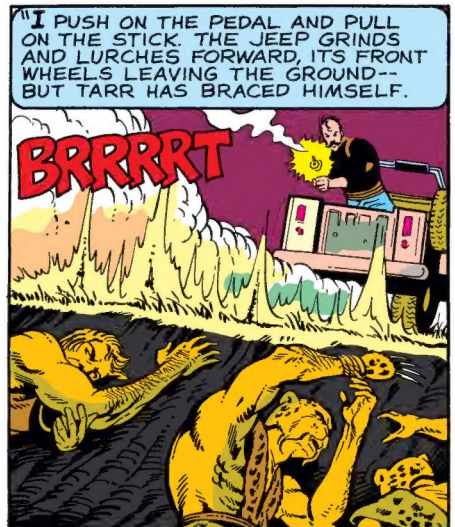
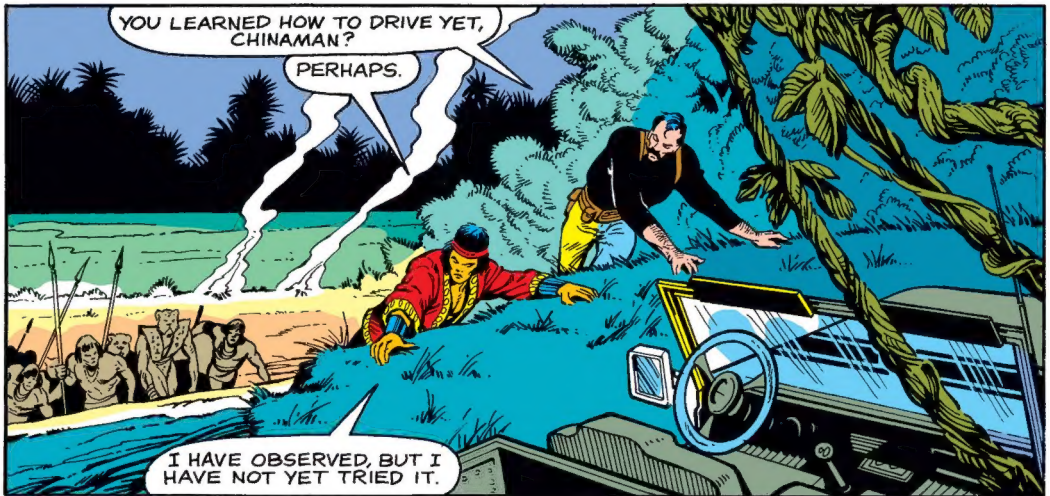
AND THERE IS NO...DARKNESS ...ON THE WATER...

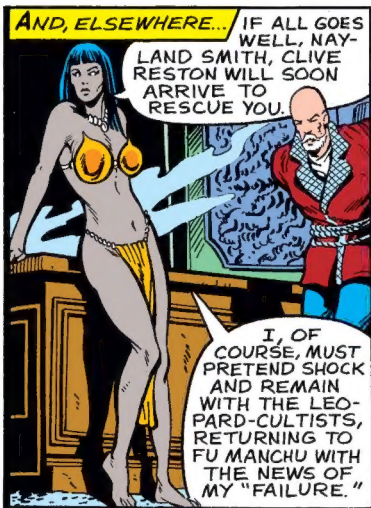
NO... BLOOD?



"WE CAN MOVE NO CLOSER WITHOUT REVEALING OURSELVES. AND SO, BEFORE THE OTHER DRAGONS CONVERGE ON US--







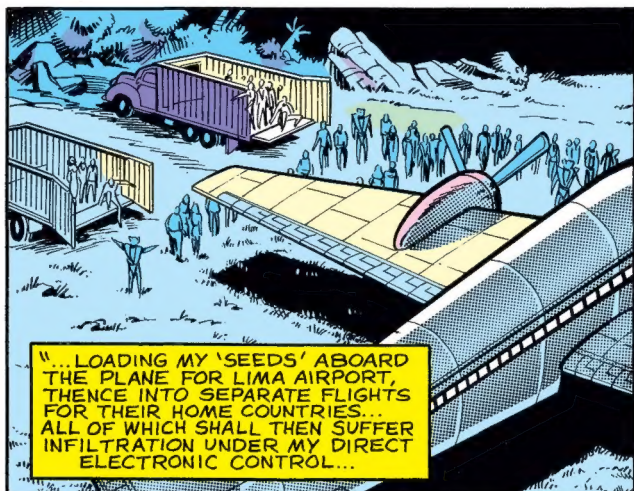


I HAVE RECEIVED A RADIO REPORT FROM THE CONVOY, MY DAUGHTER. SHANG-CHI AND BLACK JACK ARE ON THEIR WAY HERE. WE MUST BE PREPARED FOR THEM.

AND THE CONVOY ITSELF, CELESTIAL FATHER?



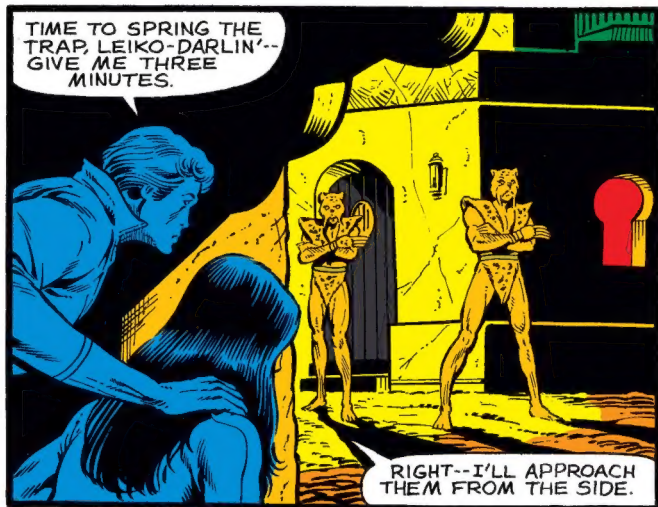
IT IS INTACT, FAH LO SUEE, AND SHOULD BE ARRIVING AT THE AIRSTRIP NOW...



"...LOADING MY 'SEEDS' ABOARD THE PLANE FOR LIMA AIRPORT, THENCE INTO SEPARATE FLIGHTS FOR THEIR HOME COUNTRIES... ALL OF WHICH SHALL THEN SUFFER INFILTRATION UNDER MY DIRECT ELECTRONIC CONTROL..."



"INDEED, THERE SHALL SOON BEGIN A MASSIVE, WORLDWIDE WAVE OF SABOTAGE AND TERRORISM FROM WITHIN."



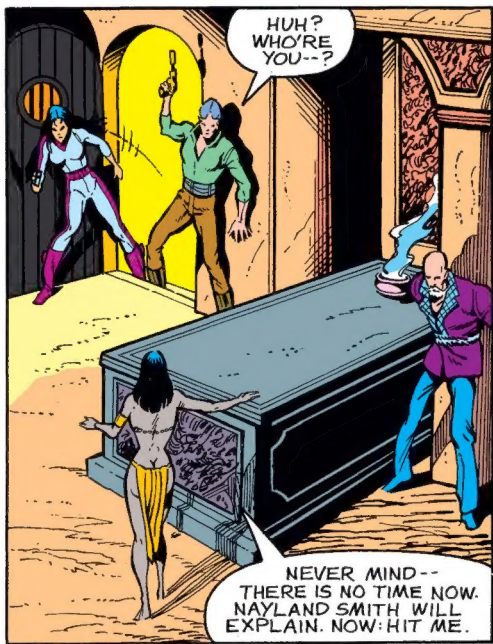
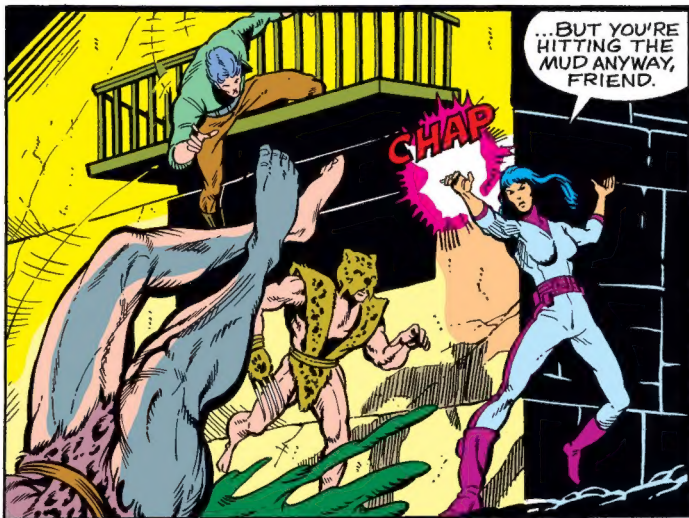
TIME TO SPRING THE TRAP, LEIKO-DARLIN'-- GIVE ME THREE MINUTES.

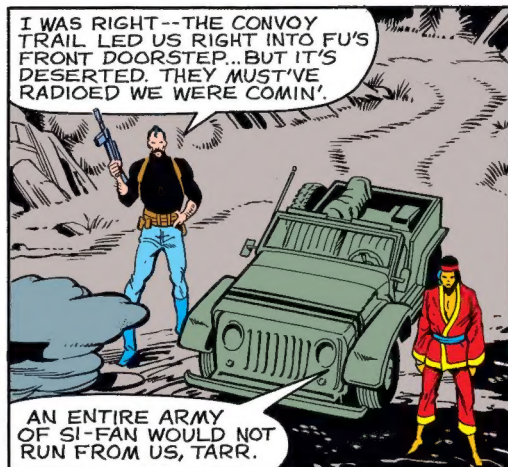
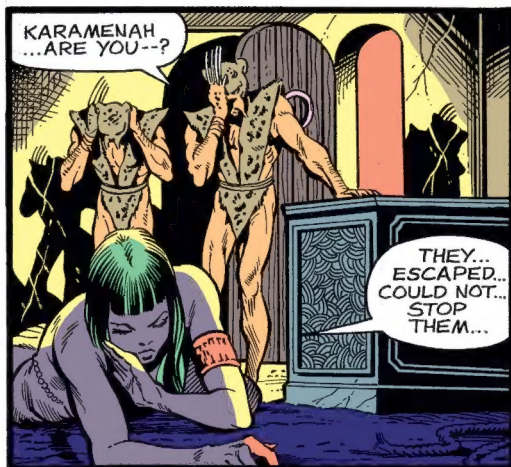
RIGHT--I'LL APPROACH THEM FROM THE SIDE.



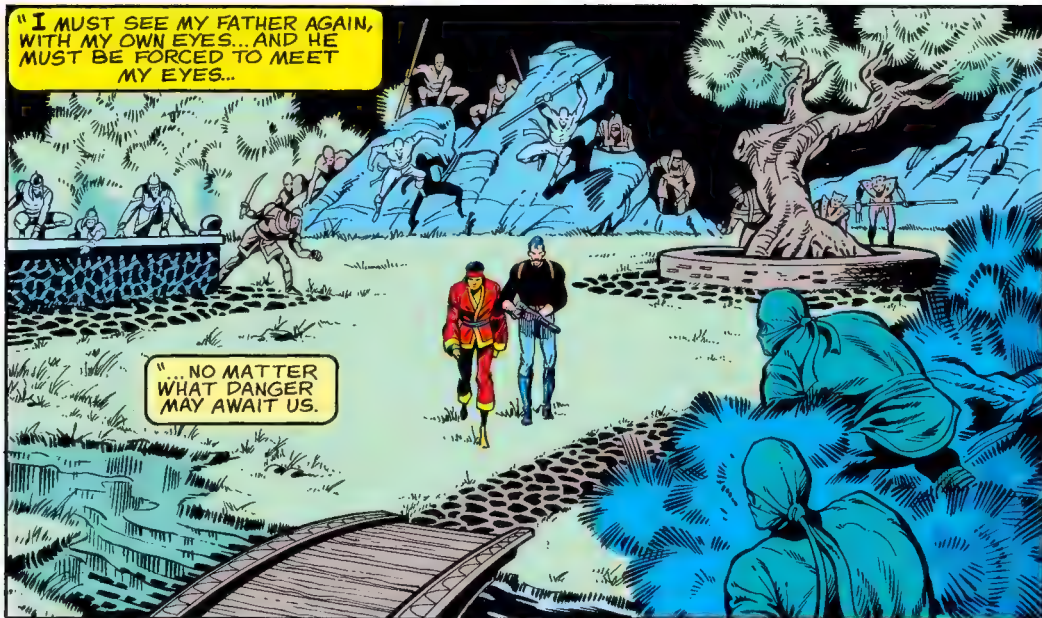
GOT A LIGHT, BIG BOY?

EH--?





"I MUST SEE MY FATHER AGAIN,
WITH MY OWN EYES... AND HE
MUST BE FORCED TO MEET
MY EYES..."

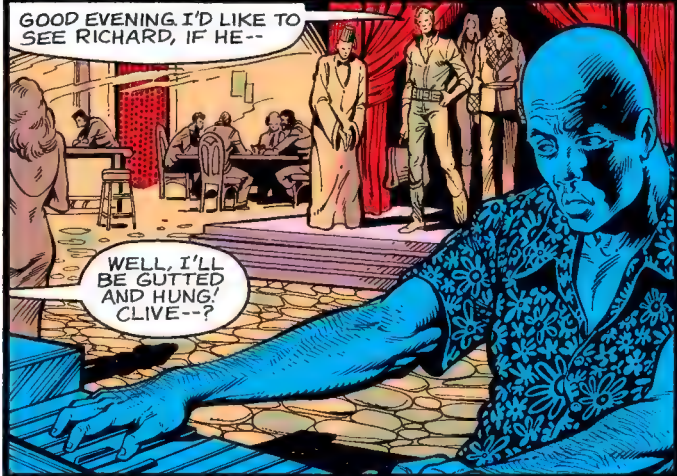


"...NO MATTER
WHAT DANGER
MAY AWAIT US."

WE CAN HIDE OUT IN HERE--
IF IT'S STILL RUN BY THE
SAME PROPRIETOR, ANYWAY.

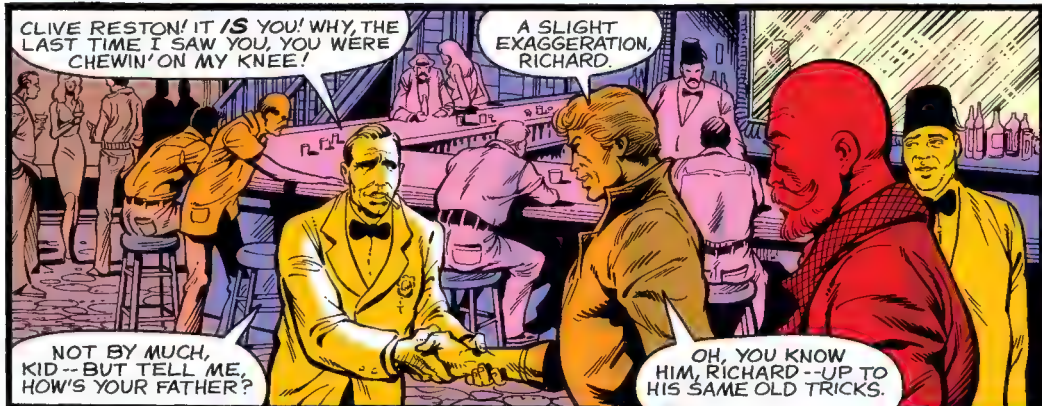


GOOD EVENING, I'D LIKE TO
SEE RICHARD, IF HE--



WELL, I'LL
BE GUTTED
AND HUNG!
CLIVE--?

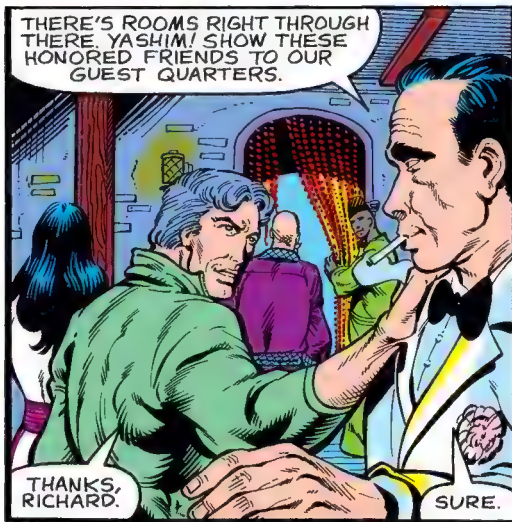
CLIVE RESTON! IT *IS* YOU! WHY, THE
LAST TIME I SAW YOU, YOU WERE
CHEWIN' ON MY KNEE!

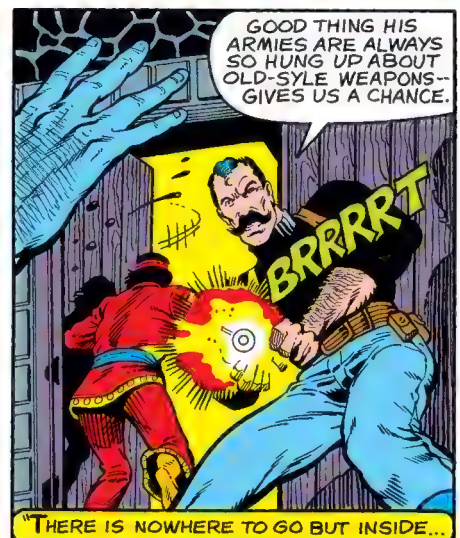
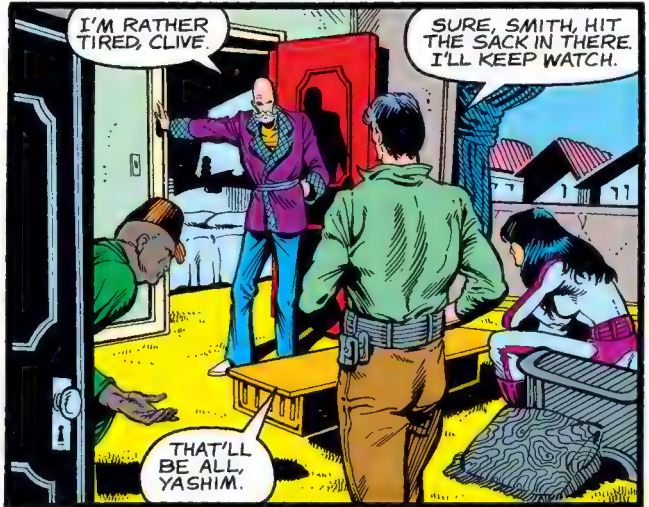


A SLIGHT
EXAGGERATION,
RICHARD.

NOT BY MUCH,
KID--BUT TELL ME,
HOW'S YOUR FATHER?

OH, YOU KNOW
HIM, RICHARD--UP TO
HIS SAME OLD TRICKS.

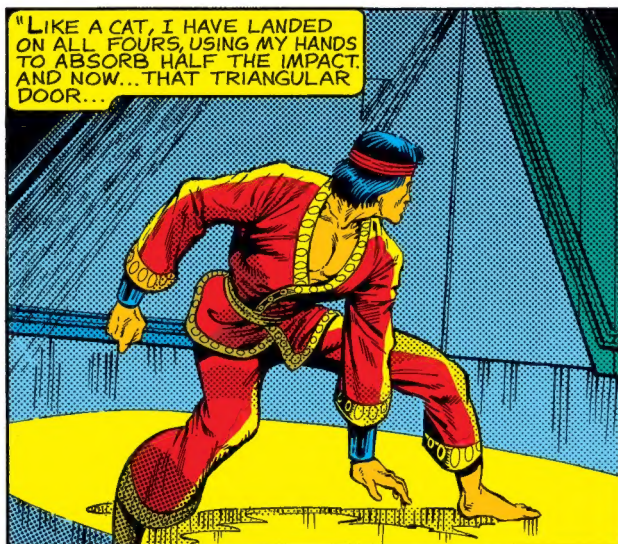


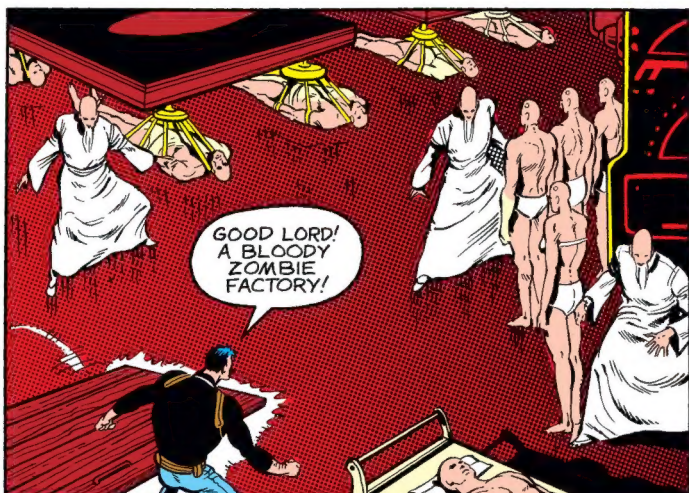












MISSIVES TO THE MASTER!

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP
575 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10022

ROGER STERN
EDITOR
JIM SALICRUP
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Doug,

"A sort of horrible expectancy claimed me..."

"You are not suggesting, Sir Denis," I asked, "that we are up against *Dr. Fu Manchu*?"

Oh, you ARE? NEAT!

I just finished an article I was assigned to write for a quirky little fanzine called *HEROINES SHOWCASE*. It's about Leiko Wu, and in preparing my mind for the task I had to reread every issue of *MASTER OF KUNG FU* which featured Leiko, and try to see events from HER viewpoint. The result was very interesting, to say the least. I'll send you a copy of the zine when it comes out, but in the meantime I want to let you know that I think I'm finally beginning to understand your use of *juxtaposition* as a technique. Whether this is conscious or unconscious, I don't really know, but it certainly stands out once one knows what to look for. It seems that every character has a "double" and every event is somehow echoed in another event. (Juliette betrays Shang, Anna betrays Black Jack Tarr; Leiko picks Shang's lock, Reston picks hers...etc.) If this is all done "on purpose," you are to be congratulated; if it is "accidental," you can consider it a spin-off of the basic yin/yang theme of the book. I tend to think it's all intentional — but then, I won't know unless you tell me, will I?

Cat Yronwode
RT 1 Box 287
Willow Springs, MO. 65793

Doug says that the "juxtapositions" and "foreshadowings" are indeed intentional, Cat, and he's gratified that more and more readers seem to be noticing these small touches. Of course, not all of the "couplings" and "leit-motifs" are always so subtle, but for a while it seemed that even the most overt instances were escaping most readers — or at least escaping comment. But while the device is intentional overall, you're also somewhat correct in your surmise about the felicitous yin/yang nature of writing MOKF. For instance, while most of the juxtaposition echoing is deliberately contrived for effect, often the very contrivance itself will lead to other unforeseen echoes of rhythm and event. These are the magic moments in writing, when the barely imagined and glimpsed pieces of the jigsaw puzzle suddenly and splendidly fall into place before the writer's eyes. These are unplanned moments which, somehow, somewhere in the mind, HAD to be planned. There is a small amount of awe to be felt, and sometimes the swift spread of gooseflesh. And while these instances are pleasant (albeit spooky) surprises, the writer is always quick to reshape his material so as to take full advantage of the felicity. So yes, Doug is quite deliberate about most of the writing gimmicks, and aware (as far as he knows) of all of them.

By the way, for another example of this sort of thing, Doug highly recommends the latest novel by one of his favorite writers: *THE SIXTH COMMANDMENT* by Lawrence Sanders. Read the book from cover to cover — if you've got the time, it'll demand a single breakneck sitting — and then go back to reread the first 6 or 7 pages. The foreshadowed echoes of the book's ensuing theme are supple, slender, and subtle — but stunning.

Finally, we're glad to hear that Leiko has finally become the object of some serious study. We've always felt that she's one of the better and more complex characters currently featured in comics, and after combing through a half-dozen articles about "Women in Comics"—which seem entirely devoted to Red Sonja, Ms. Marvel, Wonder Woman, and other flashy females — we were frankly beginning to despair that anyone else had even NOTICED the low-key Ms. Wu.

Gentlemen:

I would like to congratulate Shang-Chi on three rather exceptional feats, if you don't mind.

1) Shang-Chi has duplicated the miracle of Dr. Strange, i.e., surviving the loss of a truly exceptional creative team and the onslaught of inferior artwork to eventually return to the very top of the medium. In Dr. Strange's case, it was the transition from Thomas/Colan/Palmer to Englehart/Brunner/Giordano. In Shang-Chi's case, it has been Moench/Gulacy to Moench/Zeck. I have waited too long for this revival in quality, and I certainly hope it lasts longer than the other three teams I've mentioned.

(Aside to Jim Craig: Dr. Strange's "inferior" artists included Perlin, Russell, Hunt, and — believe it or not — Starlin. Exceptional artists all, on other work — so don't quit yet!)

2) Shang-Chi is the ONLY non-super hero to succeed commercially (let alone artistically) for any appreciable length of time in decades. Five and a half years and still monthly!

3) Only Ghost Rider has been around longer as a solo star without going back to the early sixties for examples. The Ghost Rider being a borderline series (how DOES he hang on for so many years as a bi-monthly?), that makes Chi next to Daredevil, for Pete's sake, in age and longevity! (Sorry, Roy, but the Barbarian is a lot older than ANY Marvel hero!)

Just thought you guys would like to know how remarkable these facts are. Continue the rising and advancing of Chi's (and my) spirit.

Rand Stewart
950 W. Aaron Drive E2
State College, PA 16801

Dear People,

Congratulations upon the good fortune of acquiring the inestimable talents of that highly competent artist, Gene Day.

While his inking ranks among the very best, adding depth, movement, clarity, form as well as detail and a certain feel of presence often lacking in comics, it would be advisable to bear in mind that Gene is a proven artist and writer in his own right.

He is well known to collectors and to those who consider the comics form a true art. A comparison of the splash pages of MOKF #'s 77 & 78 will demonstrate why.

Thomas A. Murray
307-477 Superior Street
Victoria, B.C., Canada V8V 1T5

We wholeheartedly agree, Thomas, and it seems — knock on wood! — that we've finally found our "permanent inker" in Gene Day. We couldn't be more pleased.

NEXT ISSUE: Gene Day inks again! Mike Zeck pencils up a storm! And Doug Moench collapses over his typewriter! Be here!

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